



## AS LONG AS IT TAKES, WE GET IT DONE

At a recent Department of Defense Bloggers Rountable, Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills, who served as Commander, Regional Command Southwest in Afghanistan from April 2010 to April 2011, was asked was asked to comment on the impact of Osama bin Laden's death in Afghanistan. "Regarding bin Laden, I think we'll see how that plays out, in all honesty. I think psychologically it's going to be a blow to the -- to the insurgency, and -- I think, because -- for several reasons. First of all, he



does have some mythical standing within the terrorist organizations as some sort of a -- you know, a senior guidance, if you will. And I think eliminating him, I think, is a psychological blow in that aspect. And I think perhaps more importantly is it proves the point that the Americans don't walk away; that when we set ourselves a mission, we accomplish it; no matter how tough, no matter how long it takes, we get it done. And I think that that speaks against the insurgent propaganda that the Americans are going to leave very quickly and kind of forget about Afghanistan and walk away from you. I think that we need to stress the

fact that we're in this fight for the long-term and we're in this fight to be successful and that we will do what it takes to get that success and take the time, whatever it takes, to accomplish our mission. So I think -- I think that will be the major impact."

[Read complete transcript >>](#)

**NOTE: Maj. Gen. Mills has been nominated by the President for the rank of Lieutenant General and to serve as the Commanding General of MCCDC. Lt. Gen. George J. Flynn, has been nominated by the President to serve as the director, J-7, Joint Staff. >>**

## LT. GEN. ALLEN TO COMMAND AFGHANISTAN FORCES

President Barack Obama named Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John R. Allen as his pick to replace Army Gen. David H. Petraeus as commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan. Allen, who is the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, is poised to become the first Marine to command all U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. Obama called Allen "a battle-tested combat leader in Iraq who helped turn the tide in Anbar province," where Allen served as deputy commanding general of Multinational Division West and the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from 2006 to 2008. Prior to his current post, Allen served briefly as the Central Command's (CENTCOM) acting commander when Petraeus, CENTCOM commander at the time, left for Afghanistan. Since becoming CENTCOM's deputy commander, Allen also helped execute military strategy in Afghanistan, Obama said. "I understand well the demands of this mission," Allen said at the White House. "If confirmed, I will dedicate my full measure to the successful accomplishment of the tasks before us."



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**[See Also: President Obama Chooses Marine Known for Swaying Sunnis in Iraq >>](#)**

## NEWS

### CONCUSSION CARE GETS DEFENSE VISIT



The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, and other medical advisors visited the Concussion Restoration Care Center (CRCC) aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 29. In the past eight months, the CRCC had 2,454 concussion-related visits, 2,208 musculoskeletal-related visits, and 348 mental health evaluations. Only 26 patients were medically evacuated back to the states for treatment; the

rest returned to a full-duty status after treatment at the CRCC. During the visit, the distinguished visitors talked to the doctors about combat stress treatment, concussion care and musculoskeletal injuries, and ways to improve training to help prevent such cases.

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**See Also: Weekly Regional Command South-West news roundup >>**

## SENIOR ENLISTED MEET, ENSURE UNIFIED EFFORT



During April's Senior Enlisted Conference on Quantico, senior enlisted Marines brainstormed solutions to challenges facing the Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC), specifically how to increase the recruitment of highly qualified men and women from diverse backgrounds. Led by MCRC's senior enlisted Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Logan, the conference involved recruiting leaders from the two recruiting regions and six districts as well as the Sergeants Major of Marine Corps Recruit Depots San Diego and Parris Island. "The goal of the conference was to ensure we had a

unified effort and focus on the commanding general's 2011 goals and milestones," said



Logan. After two days of discussion and problem solving, MCRC's senior enlisted Marines met via video conference with Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett, incoming Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Barrett echoed Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent's words on the importance of recruiting to the Marine Corps future and pledged his continuing support for MCRC when he takes his post as the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, June 9. Moving forward, Logan hopes for annual conferences like this to aid MCRC in its mission of turning the United States best and brightest into Marines.

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[See also: Sgt. Maj. Kent Returns to I MEF for farewell tour >>](#)

## KOREAN, US MARINE HOWITZERS HOWL



During the Korean Incremental Training Program 2011-2 (KITP 11-2) Marines and sailors from 3rd Battalion 12th Marine Regiment (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Republic of Korea Marines with the 22nd Bn., 2nd Artillery Brigade, 2nd ROK MarDiv., conducted bilateral artillery training. The coordination exercise is one of many exercises that make up KITP 11-2, a joint-service, bilateral training exercise between ROK and U.S. forces designed to strengthen the

ROK-U.S. alliance, while promoting stability throughout the Korean Peninsula. This is the first time ROK and U.S. forces have held a battalion-level artillery exercise together during their alliance, according to ROK Marine Lt. Col. Byung Sun Lee, the battalion commander for 22nd Bn. "I am greatly honored to be a part of this historic event," said Lee. "We acted as one which will ultimately allow us to connect with one another, as well as, realize the importance of our alliance." During the exercise, ROK and U.S. Marines working together fired 155mm high-explosive, smoke and illumination rounds from the howitzers.

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## SEMPER FIDELIS BOWL TO SHOWCASE FUTURE STARS

The inaugural Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl will take place January 3, 2012, and some of the finest young



football players in America are competing for a chance to play. The Semper Fidelis Bowl is part of a partnership between Marine Corps Recruiting Command and Junior Rank, a program designed to develop the next generation of student athletes through education, evaluation and instruction. "Leadership, attitude, and teamwork are integral to both the United States Marine Corps and



Junior Rank," said Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "So we are proud to partner with an organization whose mission is to help young men develop character, integrity and focus on academic excellence; three keys to victory both on and off the field." The bowl game, which will be nationally televised, will be an East-West format game featuring the top 100 high school seniors that participated in Junior Rank camps throughout the year. Looking ahead, the Marine Corps will team up with Junior Rank for many more camps across the country during 2011 leading up to the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. To find out when Junior Rank and the Marines will be in your area or for more information, visit [www.juniorrank.com](http://www.juniorrank.com).

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## HERO OF THE WEEK

### MARINE'S QUICK REACTION SAVES LIFE



Cpl. Eduardo Valdez Rojas, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), prevented a civilian contractor from being crushed aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan. Sgt. Alexander J. Tobusch, who was there when the accident happened commented, "We saw [one of the contractors] trying to lift the pallet with a jack so the fork lift could pick it up from the plane's ramp." At that time another contractor,

who was standing on the other side of the ramp assisting in the offload, noticed the pallet was going to fall and tried to hold it in place. The weight of the pallet knocked the man off balance, and he fell off the ramp and landed on his back. The 1,300-pound pallet followed him. "I have never seen somebody move so fast," Tobusch explained. "He (Valdez Rojas) ran toward the guy and dragged him away as we saw the pallet land right where he fell. The diligence to his duties and demonstration of courage earned Valdez Rojas a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during an award ceremony on April 26, 2011. "It is good to be recognized, but I would do it again if I had to, with or without recognition," Valdez Rojas concluded. "I think the best satisfaction I can get out of this experience is the fact that I helped someone live. That person is still alive and can go back to his family because I did something."

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## MARINE EARNS AWARD FOR SAVING LIVES



For exemplary efforts in preventing drunk driving, the GEICO Military Service Award was given to Cpl. Robbie D. Johnson. This annual award is presented to service members who contribute to their communities and the military by volunteering their own time to make a difference. Though Johnson knew he was nominated nine months prior to the ceremony, he didn't know he was chosen for the award until he received a phone call from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent. Johnson first experienced the repercussions of drunk driving at age

13, when he tragically lost his father in an accident caused by a drunk driver. With tragedy and a wake-up call behind him, he pushed forward and sought to prevent Marines from making the same mistake. Project Guardian Angel officially began July 27, 2010, weeks after Johnson received non-judicial punishment for driving under the influence. Johnson immediately took responsibility for his mistake and set out to prevent the same thing from happening to other Marines. Through Johnson's initiative and hard work, Project Guardian Angel is not only quickly growing, but leaders Corps-wide have noticed the effective approach of the program, seeking to implement it in other Marine Corps installations. "We will definitely be in every Marine Corps base by the end of 2012," said Johnson.



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## PARALYZED MARINE WELCOMED TO REBUILT, ACCESSIBLE HOME



In less than 90 days, friends, neighbors and strangers built an accessible home in for Cpl. Joshua Himan who was paralyzed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan. "Volunteers gutted the house, taking out the carpet, flooring, light fixtures, baths and put in accessible replacements," said Jim Munday, of Caulkin Construction. "I think it's vitally important," said Col. Mike Samarov. "I think, as a country, we did this thing wrong for the Vietnam generation and we're doing it

right for this generation." Surprised by the rebuilt house, Himan was overwhelmed with emotion. He was reminded how fortunate he is to be alive. "There are a lot of guys that...they didn't get to come home so I'm a lucky guy..." The Northern Virginia Fuller Center for Housing led the project, and a \$25,000 grant from the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund helped complete it. Himan plans to go back to school. He wants to get the advanced degree in economics he started before he joined the service.

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## EVENTS

### MCA FOUNDATION HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL MARINE CORPS GROUND AWARDS DINNER

The Marine Corps Association (MCA) and Marine Corps Systems Command will co-host the 2nd Annual MCA Ammo Tech Awards Dinner on May 24. The Dinner serves as the opportunity to formally recognize the professional achievements of the Corps' top performing Ammunition Technicians of the year for 2010. For registration, directions and more information, visit [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org) and select the event schedule or call Sarah Cohen

at 800-640-0174 or [s.cohen@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.cohen@mca-marines.org).

**Click here to register >>**

## IWO JIMA MEMORIAL 7K FUN RUN/WALK

Registrations are now open for those interested in running the May 25th Iwo Jim Memorial 7k Run/Walk. The first 200 runners registered will receive a t-shirt and awards will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place runners and walkers. For more information contact Lauren Baker, Marine Corps Community Services, at [lauren.k.baker@usmc.mil](mailto:lauren.k.baker@usmc.mil).

**Click here to register >>**

